

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03780 231832Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6085

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS KINGSTON 3780

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EMIN, JA, US, GY

SUBJECT: JAMAICAN SUPPORT FOR GUYANA IN REYNOLDS DISPUTE

1. OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER LAST NIGHT ISSUED FOLLOWING
OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR GUYANA IN ITS DISPUTE
WITH REYNOLDS

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA HAS NOTED THE IMPASSE
WHICH HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA AND
REYNOLDS METAL COMPANY IN RESPECT OF PAYMENT OF LEVIES BY
REYNOLDS ON BAUXITE MINED BY THAT COMPANY IN GUYANA.

QUOTE THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE RETURNS TO COUNTRIES FOR
THEIR RAW MATERIALS, WHICH ARE SUPPLIED TO INDUSTRIALISED
COUNTRIES IS OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA.
IN PARTICULAR, THE QUESTION OF THE RETURN OF BAUXITE MINED
IS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE, SINCE JAMAICA IS A MAJOR BAUXITE-
PRODUCING COUNTRY.

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA THEREFORE FULLY SUPPORTS
THE PRINCIPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA RAISING A LEVY
ON BAUXITE SO AS TO ENSURE THAT A FAIR AND JUST RETURN IS
RECEIVED BY GUYANA FOR THEIR VITAL NATURAL RESOURCE.

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THIS WAS THE APPROACH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA WHEN WE

IMPOSED OUR LEVY EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND THE PRINCIPLE
APPLIES EQUALLY TO GUYANA

QUOTE THE LEVY IMPOSED BY JAMAICA, AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THE
VALUE OF BAUXITE TO THE METAL PRODUCERS, IS FULLY VINDICATED
BY THE TRADING RESULTS OF THE ALUMINUM COMPANIES FOR THE
FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1974, WHICH SHOW SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES
IN PROFITS OVER 1973 AFTER PAYMENT OF THE LEVY.

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA WOULD DEPRECATE ANY ATTEMPT
BY ANY COMPANY TO REFUSE TO PAY A JUSTIFICABLE LEVY ESPECIALLY
WHEN THE LEVIES IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA ARE
IN LINE WITH THE BASE PRICES ESTABLISHED BY JAMAICA AFTER
DUE ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE DIFFERENTIALS IN PRODUCTION
COSTS, SHIPPING COSTS AND THE QUALITY OF THE METAL-GRADE
BAUXITE.

QUOTE WE REPEAT THAT THE POLICY OF A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY
SEEKING TO OBTAIN FAIR PRICES FOR ITS RAW MATERIALS IS
WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA.
END QUOTE. HEWITT

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